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Lerner et al.

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(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR VISUALLY IDENTIFYING SPEAKING PARTICIPANTS IN A MULTI-PARTICIPANT NETWORKED EVENT**

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(*) Notice: Under 35 U.S.C. 154(b), the term of this patent shall be extended for 0 days.

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Related U.S. Application Data

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(51) **Int. Cl.**⁷ **G06F 13/00**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **709/204; 709/205; 709/314; 379/202**

(58) **Field of Search** **709/204, 205, 709/218, 223, 224, 313, 314, 328, 329; 379/202**

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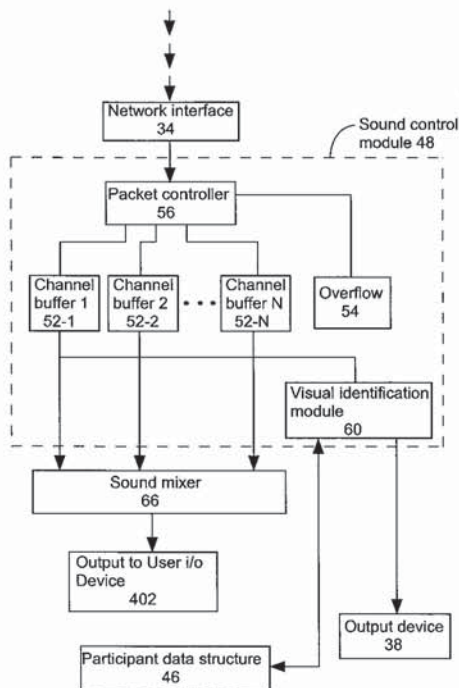
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method of visually identifying speaking participants in a multi-participant event such as an audio conference or an on-line game includes the step of receiving packets of digitized sound from a network connection. The identity of the participant associated with each packet is used to route the packet to a channel buffer or an overflow buffer. Each channel buffer may be assigned to a single participant in the multi-participant. A visual identifier module updates the visual identifier associated with participants that have been assigned a channel buffer. In some embodiments, the appearance of the visual identifier associated with the participant is dependent upon the differential of an acoustic parameter derived from content in the associated buffer channel and a reference value stored in a participant record.

25 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets



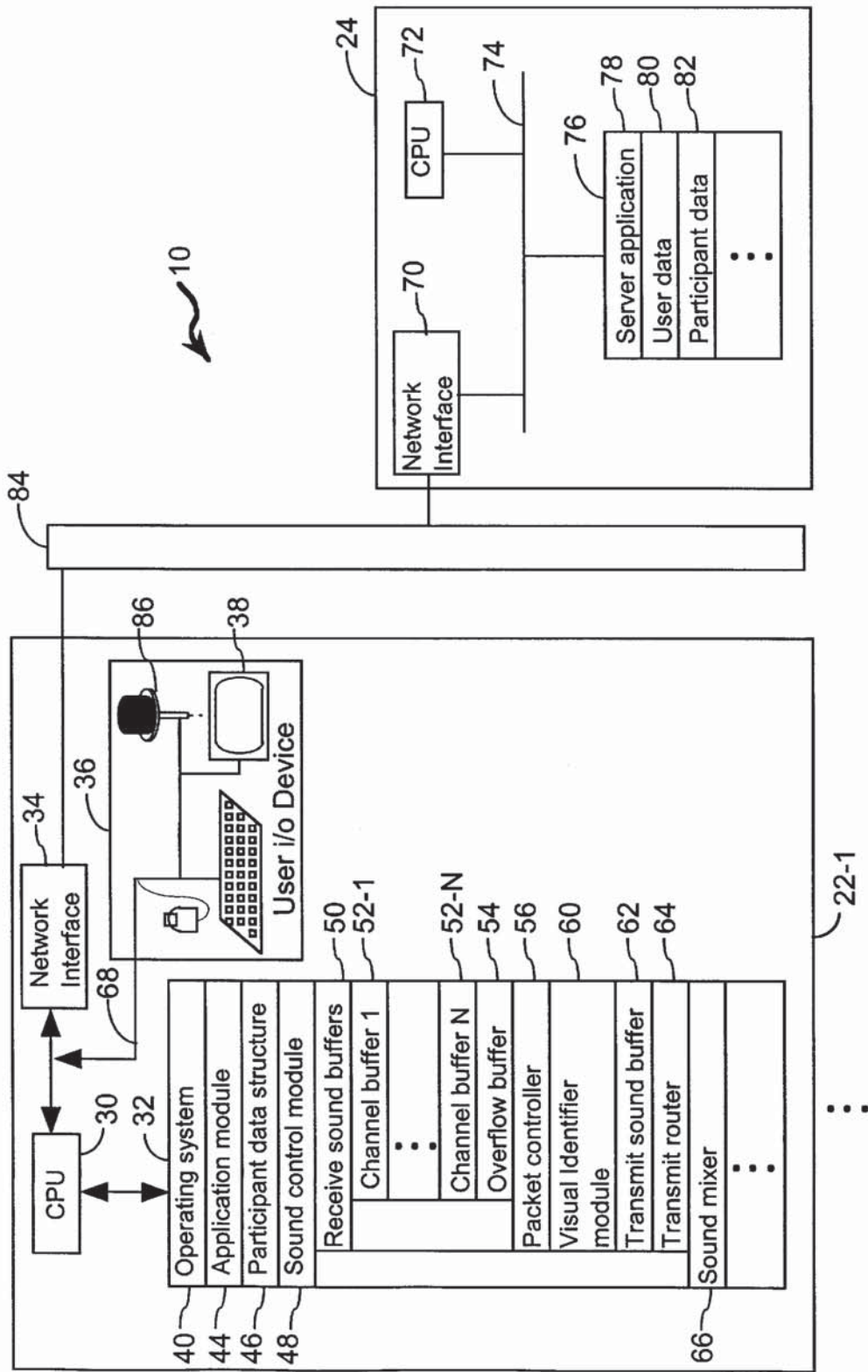


FIG. 1

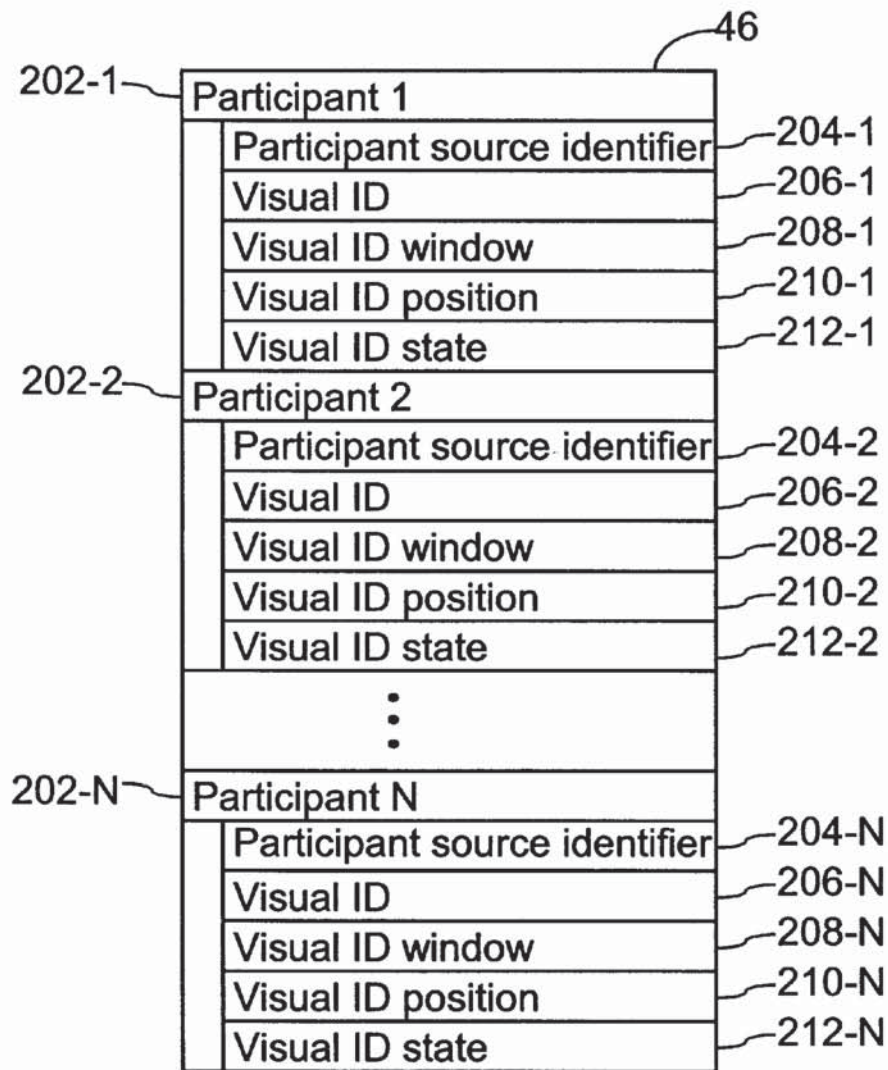


FIG. 2

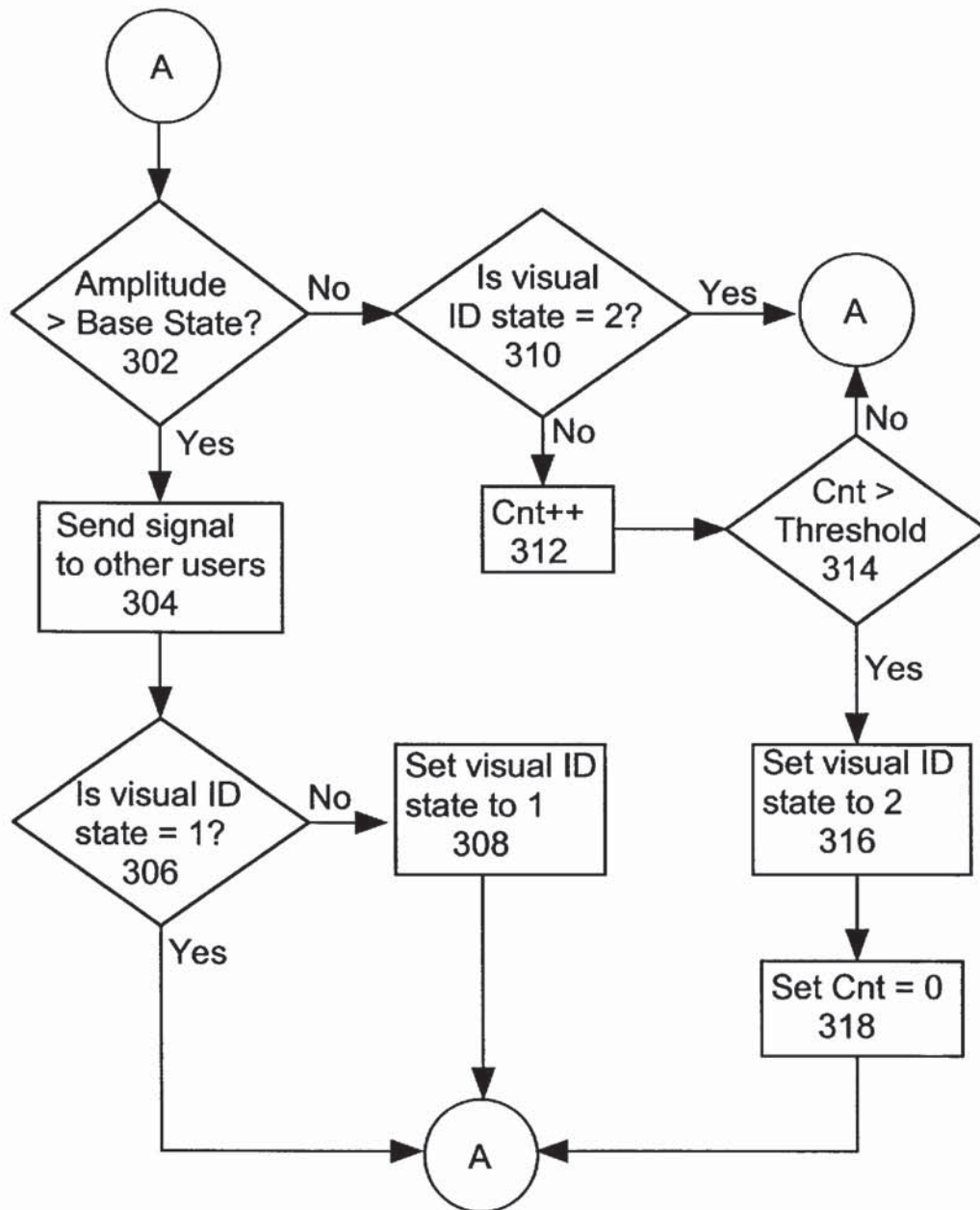


FIG. 3

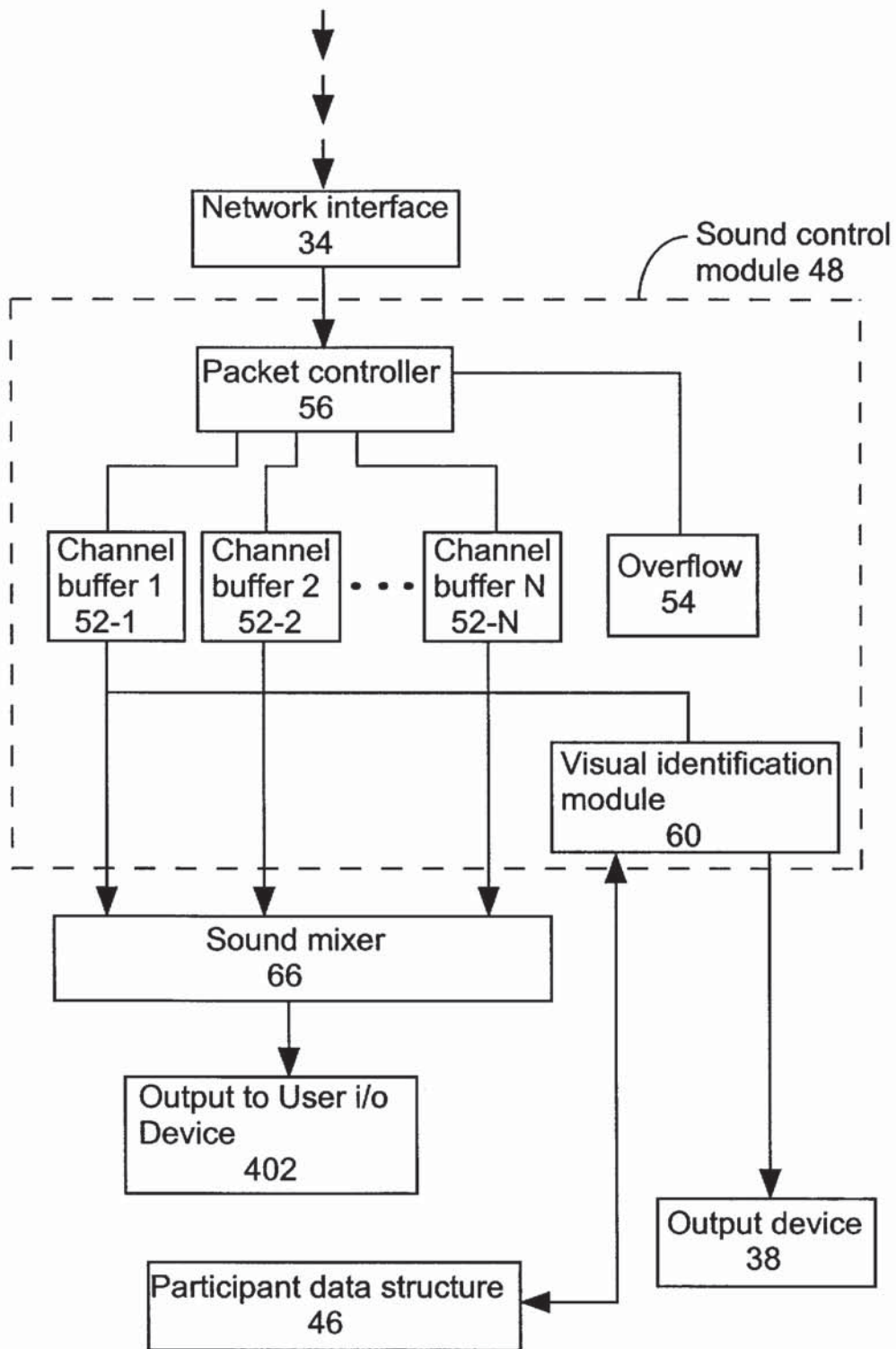


FIG. 4

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